

STATUS OF MICHIGAN WOMEN

Michigan Women's Commission

May 2010

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Michigan Women's Commission is to improve the quality of lives of Michigan women. Through research, advocacy, outreach, education and policy recommendations, the Michigan Women's Commission hopes to achieve their vision of

Increased representation of Michigan women in non-traditional fields, top executive companies, boards, businesses, and government, and

Increased access to quality education, living wage employment, family friendly benefits, and healthcare for Michigan women

The Michigan Women's Commission has produced a Status of Michigan Women Report based on currently available data. The report assesses the status of Michigan women in five categories: demographics, economy, education, government and health.

It is a tool for grantseekers, policy makers, program developers, advocates, and the general public to use highlighting key indicators of the socioeconomic well being of Michigan women.

The information for this report was gathered from: American Community Survey and IPUMS one-year 2008 data, the Michigan Department of Health 2007 data, and compiled information from the National Association of Women Judges, the White House Project, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the AAUW, and the Center for American Women and Politics.

The work was primarily prepared by Anika Fassia, Intern.

May 2010



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JUDY KARANDJEFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Michigan women make up over half the population at 50.83%¹, but represent less than a quarter of government, executive positions, boards, and top-paying positions.²

Nationally women make up only 17 percent of the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.² In 2010, representation breaks down as follows: 1,799, or 24.4%, of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 435, or 22.1%, of the 1,971 state senate seats and 1,364, or 25.2%, of the 5,411 state house seats.³ In total women representation has only increased by 2 percentage points over the last ten years.² In Michigan, women make up 25% of the House of Representatives, and only 13% of the Senate. Therefore as the female population increases, and more households are dependent on their income, the increase in representation and access has barely made up the difference.

Michigan elected their first female governor only seven years ago and nationally there are only six women governors. Additionally women comprise only 15 percent of mayors of cities with populations of over 100,000.²

Women now compromise half of all workers in the United States.⁴ Women's incomes are becoming more and more imperative to a household's budget. For nearly two-thirds of American families, women are the primary and co-breadwinners.⁴ Income stability is crucial as poverty rates are the highest for families headed by single women.⁵ As of 2008, 28.7% of households headed by single women were poor, while 13.8% percent of households headed by single men lived in poverty.⁵ In 2007, nearly half of employed women were working into a cluster of 20 occupations such as 'pink-collared' jobs, where the median income in these occupations is only \$27,383.⁶

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm states in the Women's Agenda that, "providing women with meaningful economic opportunities is critical to insuring that women and their families can enjoy all of the benefits that our society has to offer."⁷ Michigan has done a lot to support women, but has a long way to go, including increasing the minimum wage, increasing access to family planning services, insuring that health plans offer preventive screening services, and efforts to increase political participation among women.⁷

May 2010

¹ American Community Survey, 2008

² White House Project, 2010

³ Center for American Women and Politics, 2010

⁴ Shriver Report, 2009

⁵ National Poverty Center, 2010

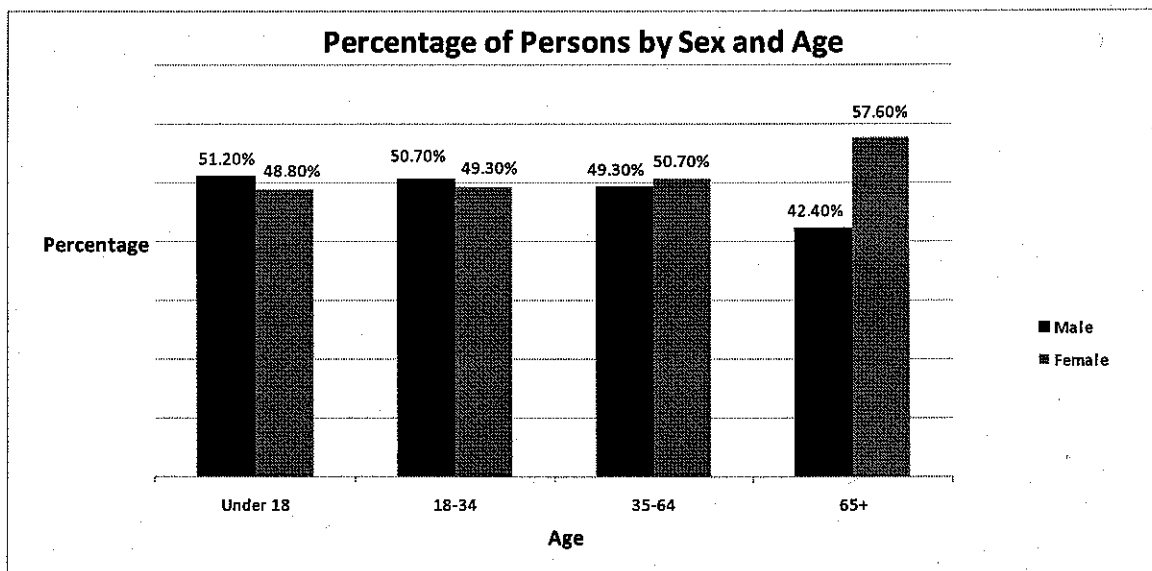
⁶ Center for American Progress, 2008

⁷ Governor Granholm Women's Agenda

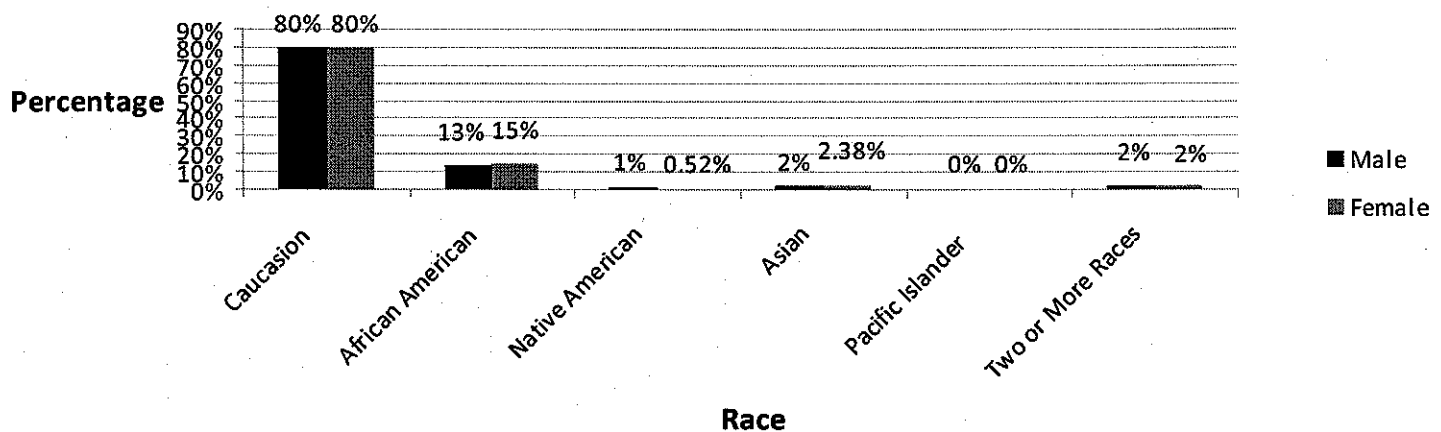
DEMOGRAPHICS OF MICHIGAN WOMEN

MI WOMEN AND THE POPULATION

According to the American Community Survey (2008), Michigan women make up approximately half the population in every age group except over the age of 65 where women account for 57.6%. This number is the same at the national level. Women 65 and over also have the lowest education attainment and twice as many are experiencing poverty compared to men. Caucasian women also make up a majority of the population at 80%, with African American women at 15%, Native American women at 0.52%, Asian American women at 2.34%, Hispanic women at 4%, and Native Hawaiian women and other Pacific Islander women at 0.0002%.

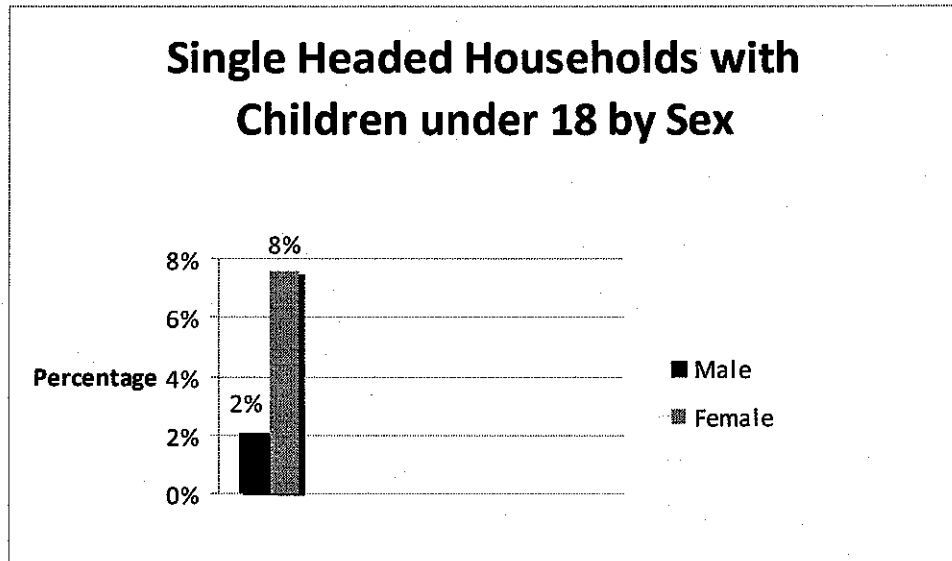


Percentage of Persons by Race and Sex as Categorized by U.S. Census



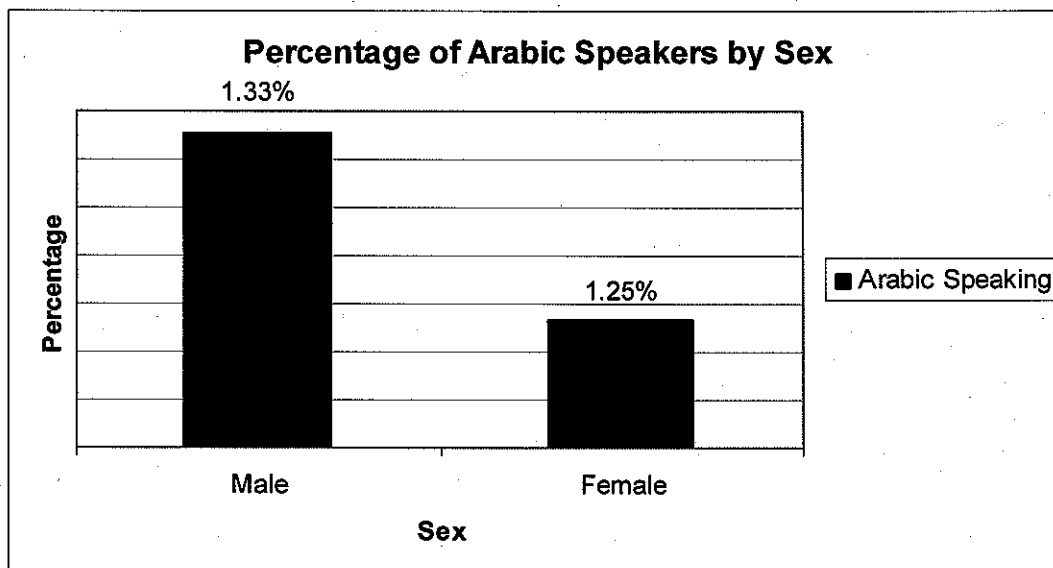
MI WOMEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Women make less than men, work mostly in lower paying occupations, and are increasingly living in poverty after the age of eighteen. The American Community Survey (2008) shows that women are four times more likely to be head of households with children under eighteen. These factors influence access to quality education, healthcare, and living wage careers because having dependents costs more and makes it harder to leave home for work. These factors put women in a vulnerable position that perpetuates the cycle of inequality and inequity.



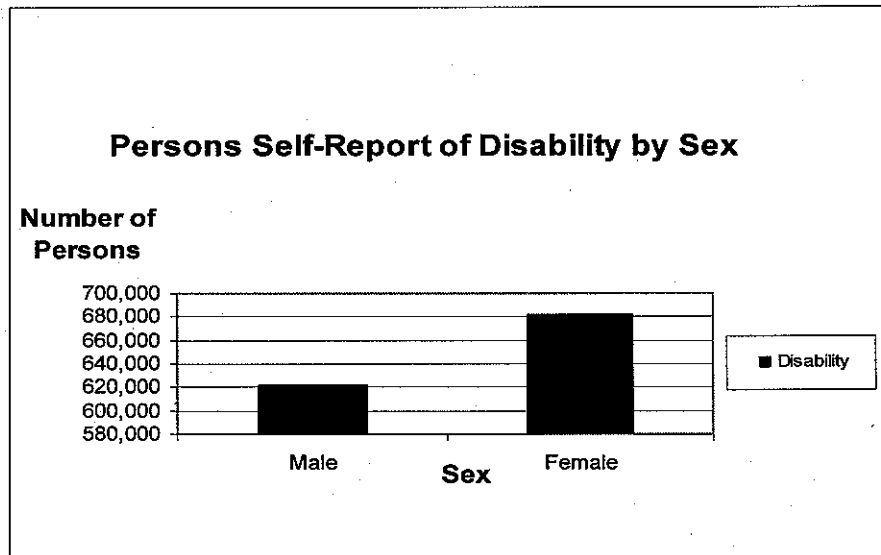
MI WOMEN AND ARABIC LANGUAGE

According to the U.S. Census, the largest concentration, almost fifty percent of the Arab American population, resides in Dearborn, Michigan. In 2000, the U.S. Census counted 1.2 million people who identified with an Arab ancestry.¹ This graph illustrates that 1% of women speak Arabic in Michigan. With Michigan being home to over half of the Arab American population, it is important to recognize their diverse needs when advocating for women's issues.



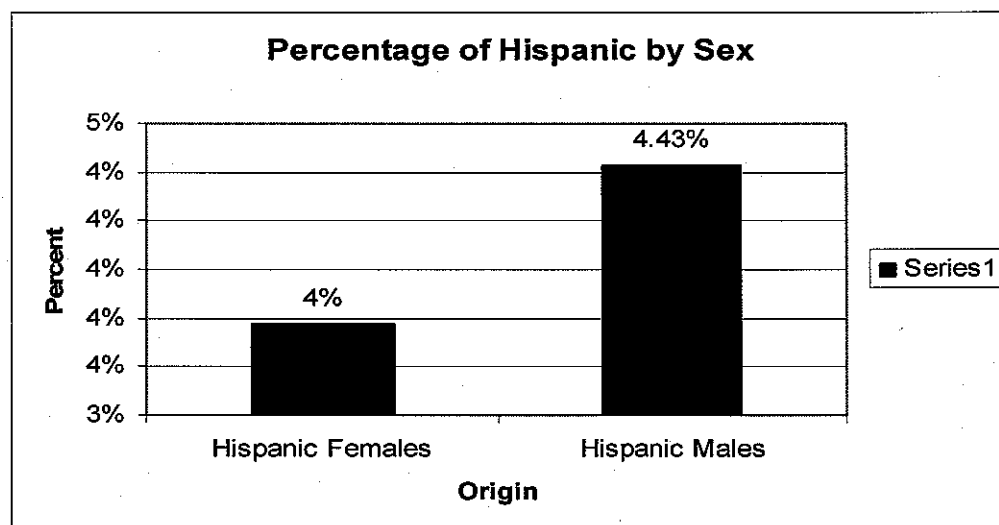
MI WOMEN AND DISABILITY STATUS

The American Community Survey asks six different questions to measure disability status. These include questions about: sensory, physical, mental, self-care, go-outside-home, and employment status. According to the Center for Disease Control, as many as one in five women in the U.S. suffer from a disability. This graph illustrates almost 680,000 women have a disability in Michigan, about 60,000 more than men.



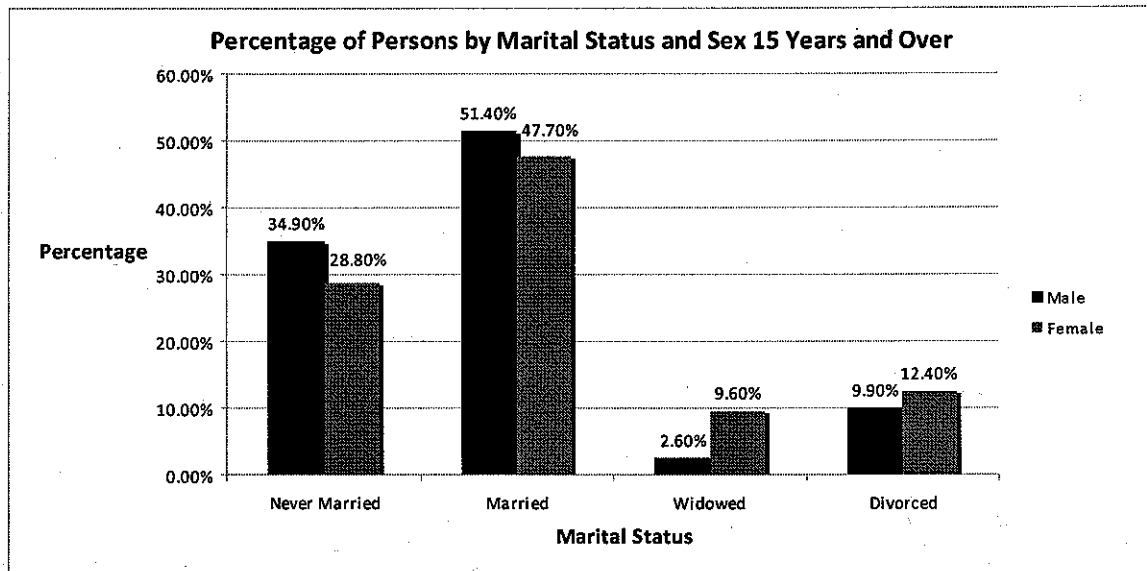
MI WOMEN AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

The U.S. Census identified those of a Hispanic origin by a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Persons who are categorized as having a Hispanic origin chose from the following ethnicities: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central, or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. It is also important to note that persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. As the graph illustrates, women who identified as having a Hispanic origin made up approximately 4% of the total female population in Michigan, and there are slightly more Hispanic males than Hispanic females.



MI WOMEN AND MARITAL STATUS

Two incomes contributing to a household are better than one. The Center for Disease Control reports that unmarried (divorced or unmarried) women aged 25-64 are more likely to be uninsured when compared to married women.² The U.S. census also states that the median age of first marriage is also increasing. This graph illustrates that close to half of the female population over 15 years of age is married and that three times as many women are widowed than men.



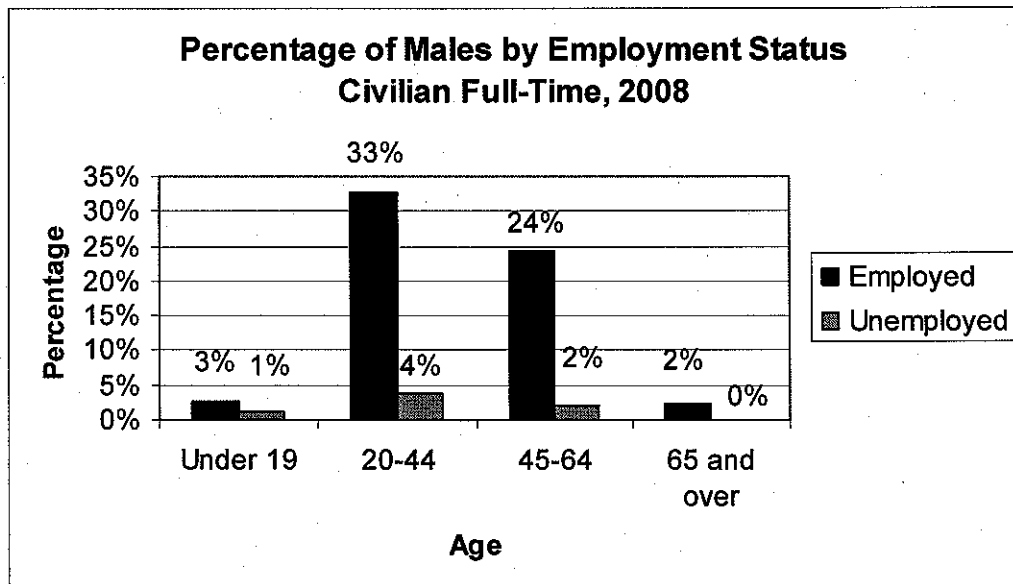
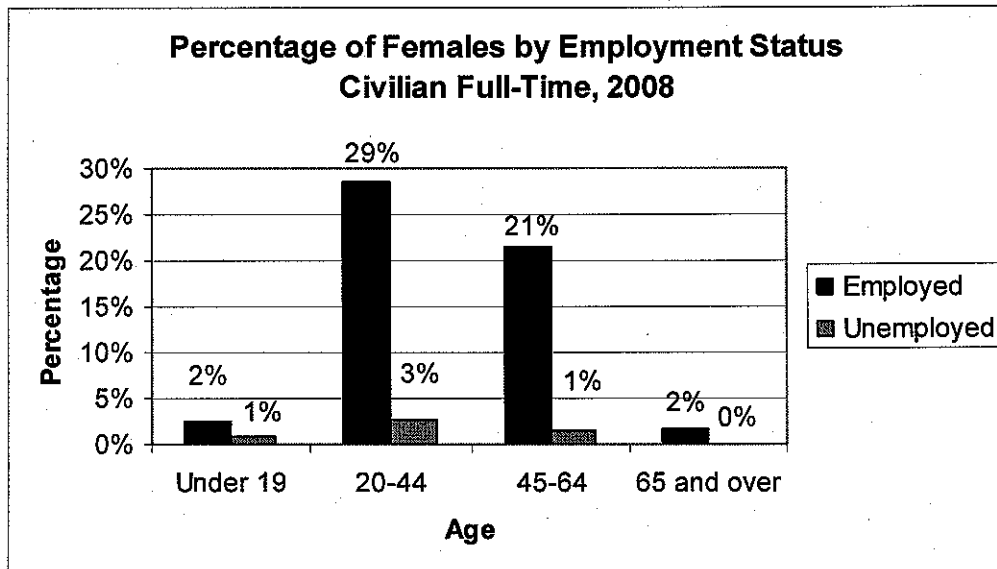
¹ 2000 U.S. Census Brief: Arab Population

² Center for Disease Control

MICHIGAN WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

MI WOMEN AND THE LABOR FORCE

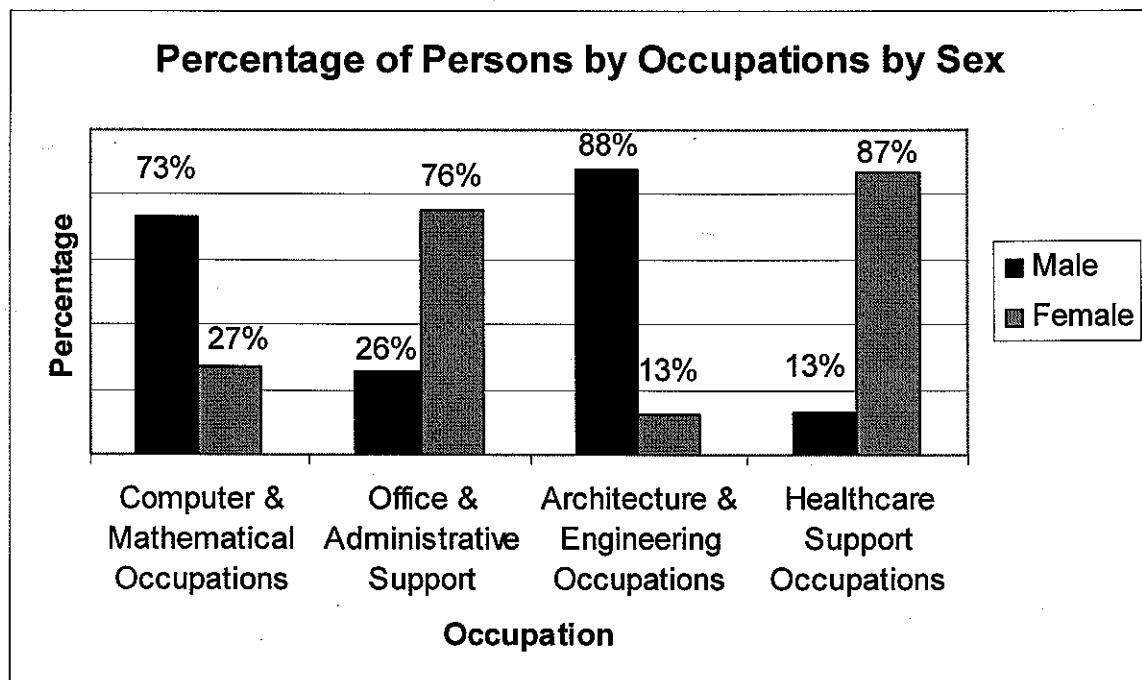
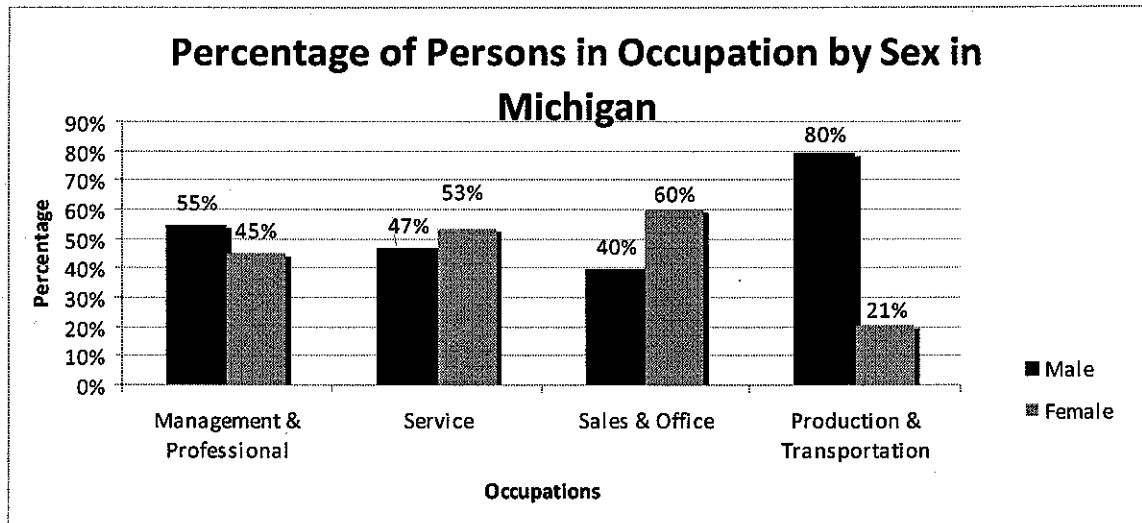
Women in the workforce is not a temporary phenomenon but a long-term trend. According to the American Community Survey (2008), more men still participate in the labor force than women. However, of the total female population in Michigan, over half, 59.3% of women do participate in the labor force as full-time year round employees over the age of 16. This percentage does not include part-time workers, seasonal workers, and those who work from home. Nationally, women for the first time make up 46.7%, or about half of the labor force.¹



¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2009

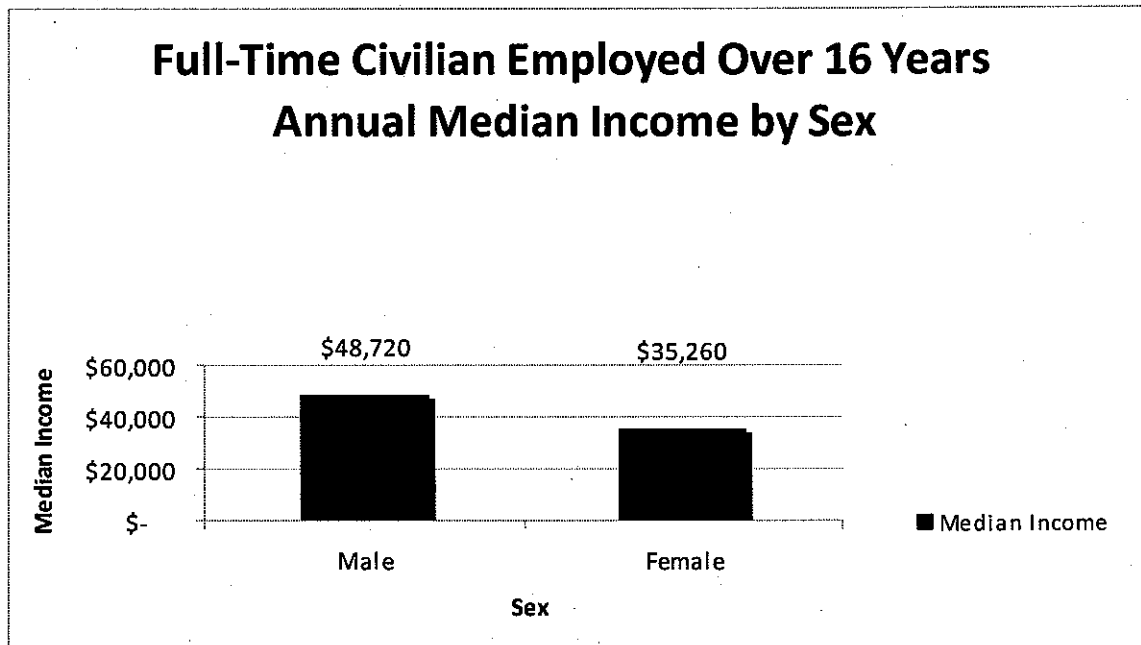
MI WOMEN AND OCCUPATION

Men continue to dominate the fields of computers, mathematics, engineering, and architecture. In each of these occupations, males make up over 75% of the labor force. Within these occupations males earn \$17,000 to \$52,000 more annually than their female counterparts.¹ In female dominated occupations, like healthcare support and office and administrative positions, where women make up over 75% of those working in the field, they are only making \$2,000 to \$4,000 more annually than their male counterparts. In addition, women dominated positions only average a salary of \$32,000 where male dominated professions earn an average of \$82,000.



MI WOMEN AND MEDIAN INCOME

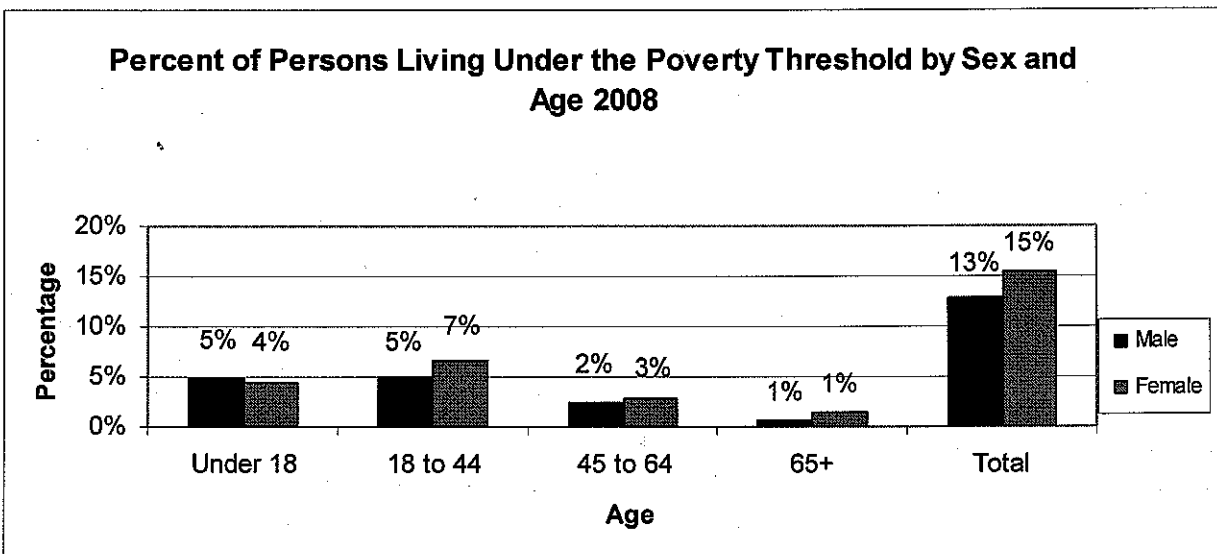
Women are still making significantly less than their male counterparts. The gap increases in male-dominated fields and decreases in female-dominated fields. This graph illustrates that men make on average \$13,000 more than women in the state of Michigan. Nationally this gap is \$10,000.



¹ American Community Survey, 2008

MI POVERTY BY SEX AND AGE

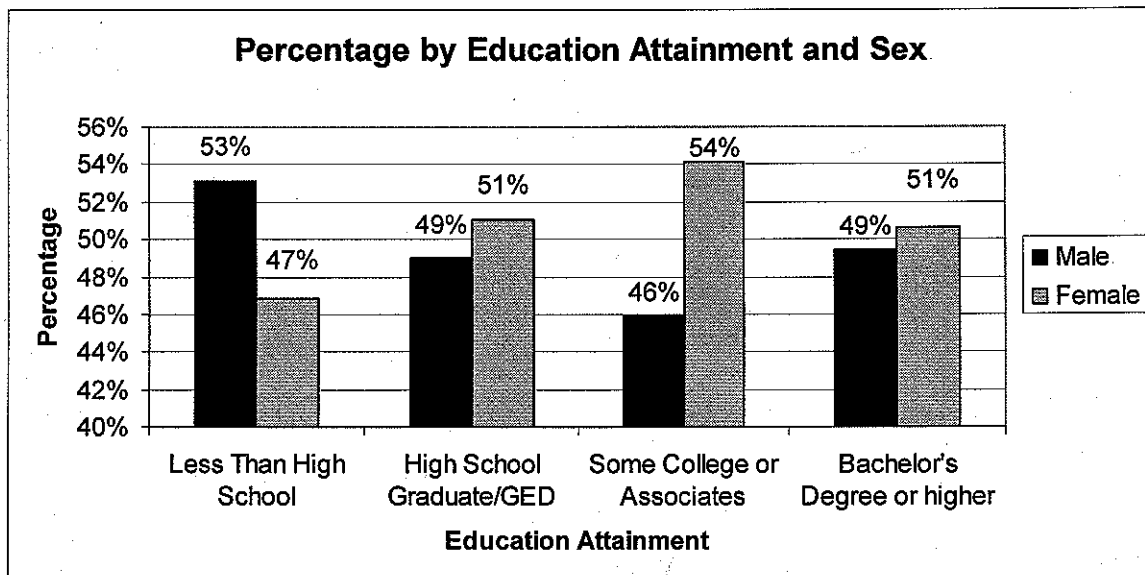
According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 2008 census data, the approximate number of Michigan women living under the poverty threshold outnumbers men in every age category except for those under 18. According to the U.S. Census (2008), the poverty threshold for a household of two is \$14,051. This means that approximately 15% of females, from birth to over 75 years of age, are living on less than \$14,051 a year. That number decreases to \$10,991 for a single individual in a household. Twice as many women age 65 and older than men experience poverty. For people over 65 years and older, the poverty threshold becomes even lower, with elderly in poverty status living on only \$10,326 per year. Beyond that, four times as many women are head households with children under the age of 18, requiring them to stretch those few dollars farther than most men. Poverty threshold for a two person household is \$14,051 (U.S. Census, 2008).



MICHIGAN WOMEN AND EDUCATION

MI WOMEN AND EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

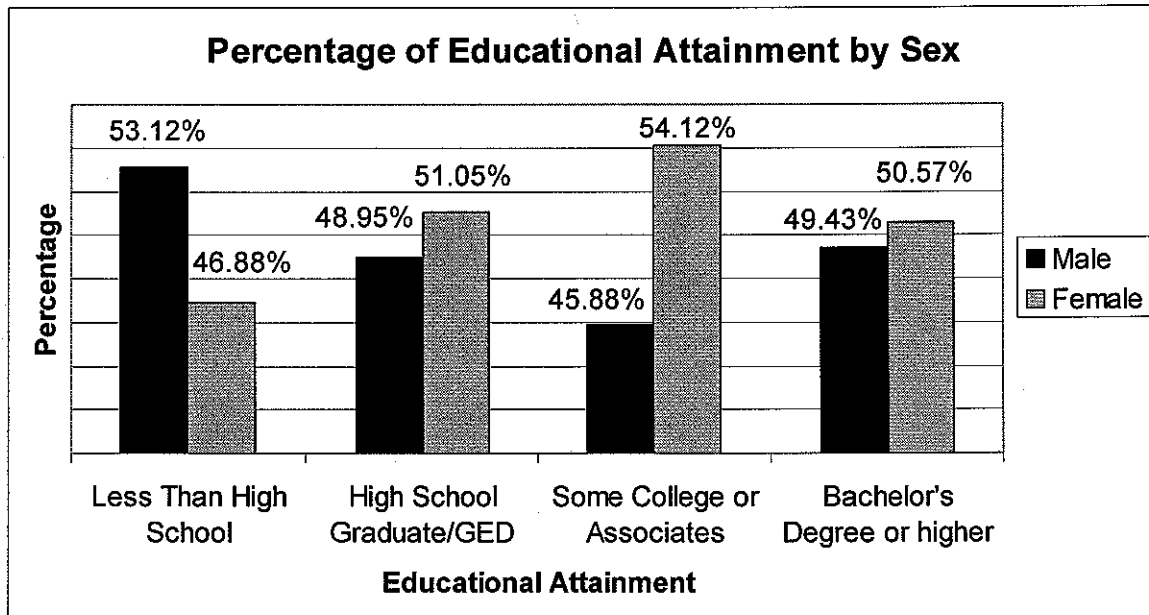
As of 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that those with a bachelor's degree earned on average \$26,000 more than those with only a high school diploma.¹ According to the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), fewer females over the age of 18 have not received a high school diploma or a GED equivalent than males. Women also receive more than half of awarded bachelor's degrees. More women are also obtaining master's degrees, but the trend reverses for professional and doctoral degrees. The largest gap occurs over the age of 65, where almost twice as many women have received a high school diploma compared to their male counterparts. However, although more women are receiving bachelors and masters degrees, they continue to be paid less for the same professional careers.



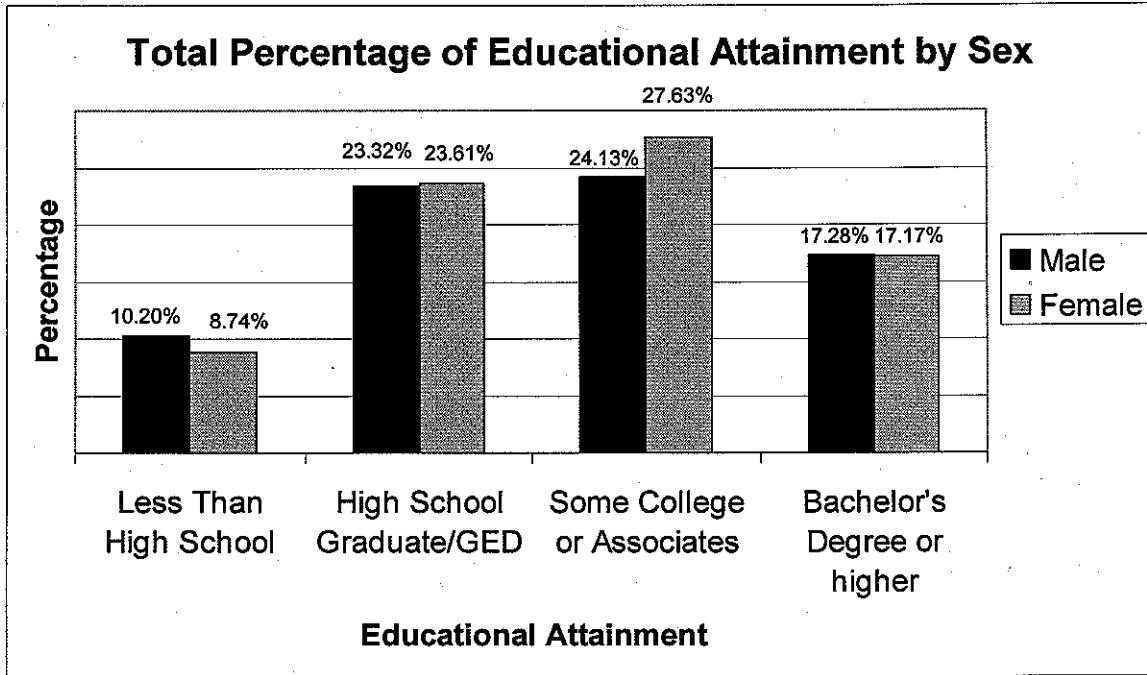
¹ U.S. Census Bureau News, *Census Bureau Releases Data Showing Relationship Between Education and Earnings*. Monday April 27th, 2009

MI EDUCATION BY SEX

This graph illustrates the percentage of Michigan males and females graduating from high school and obtaining post secondary education by age and sex. Overall more women are receiving bachelor's degrees. In Michigan, 23.9% of women have completed four or more years of college; nationally 29% of women have a bachelor's degree.² These trends reverse as people age, with more women graduating from high school and less women receiving bachelor's degrees from ages 45 to 64.

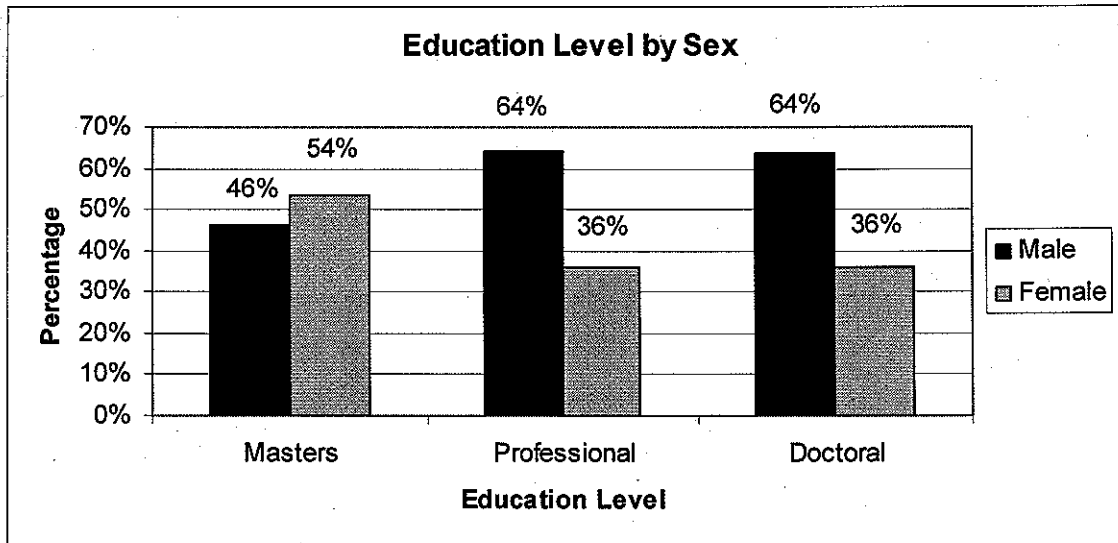


² U.S. Census Newsroom, *Women's History Month: March 2010*. January 5, 2010.



MI HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT BY SEX GRAPH

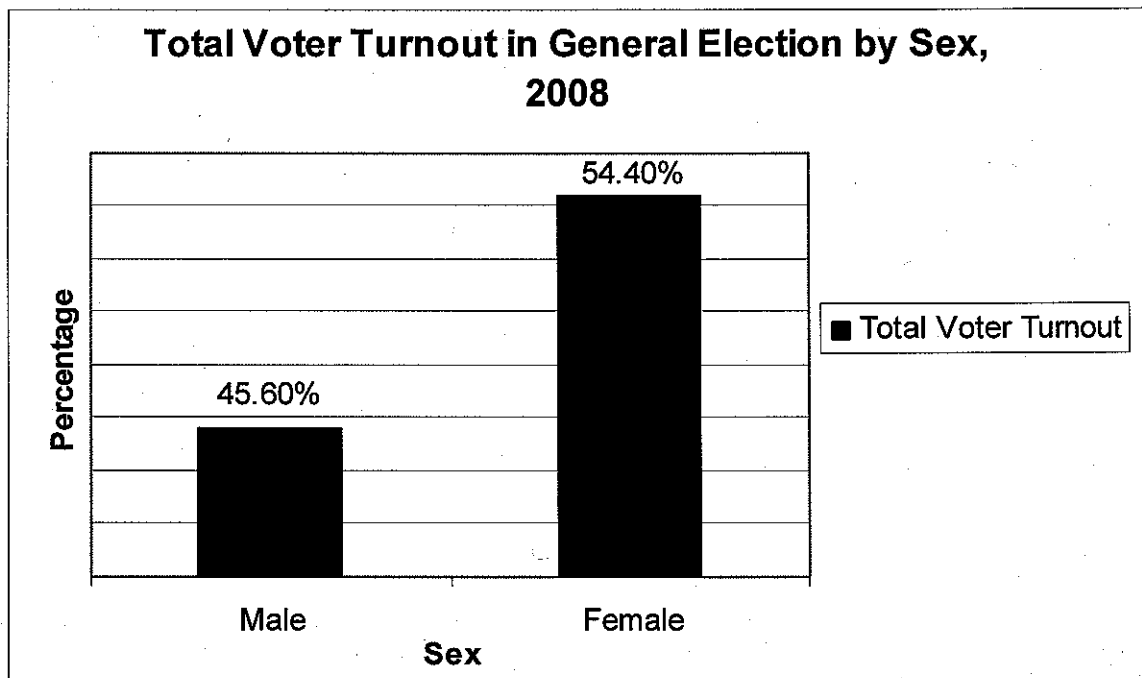
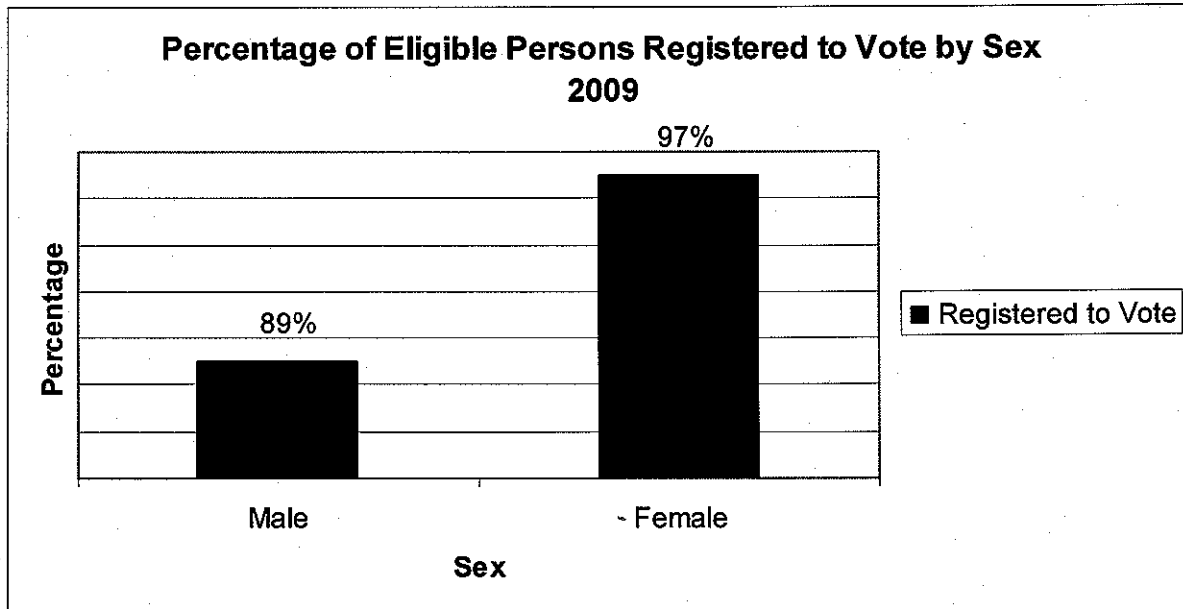
This graph illustrates that women only receive 36% of both professional and doctoral degrees and 54% of master's degrees.



MICHIGAN WOMEN AND GOVERNMENT

MI WOMEN AND VOTING

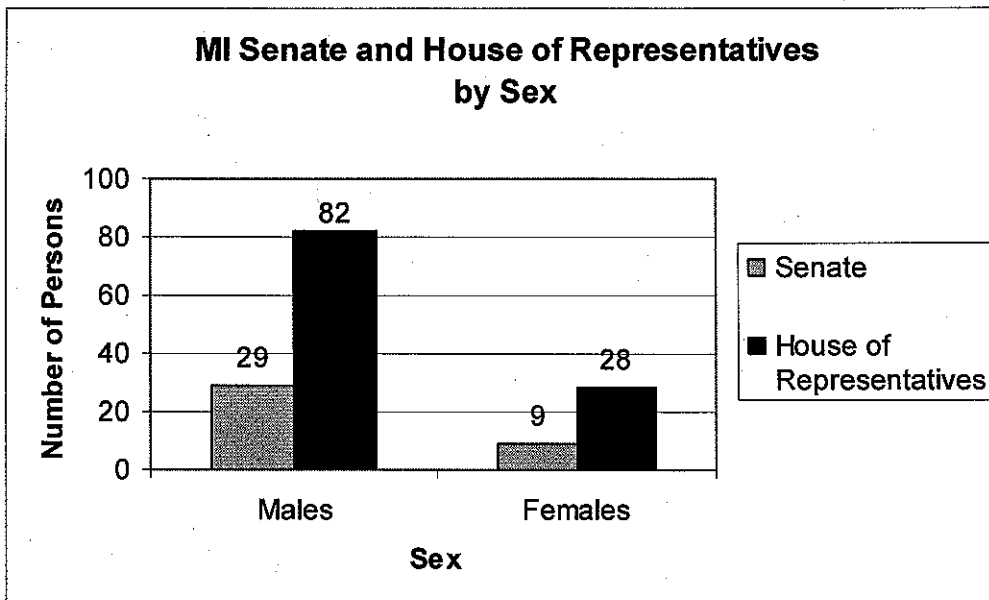
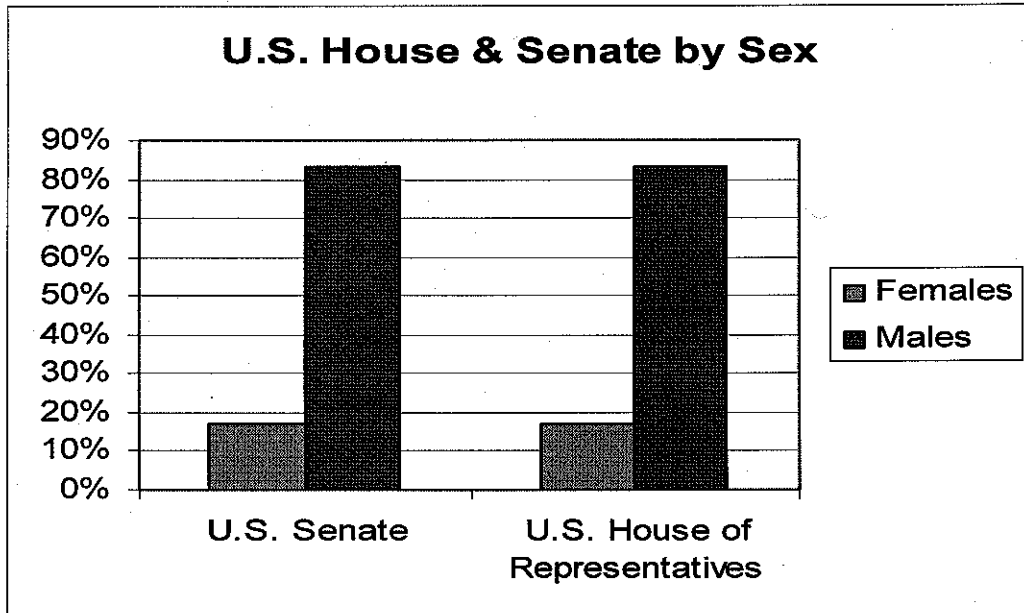
This graph illustrates that more women are registered to vote and more women turn out at the polls during an election in Michigan. Nationally, 66% of women voted during the 2008 Presidential election compared to 62% of males.¹ Additionally, 73% of women are registered to vote nationally.



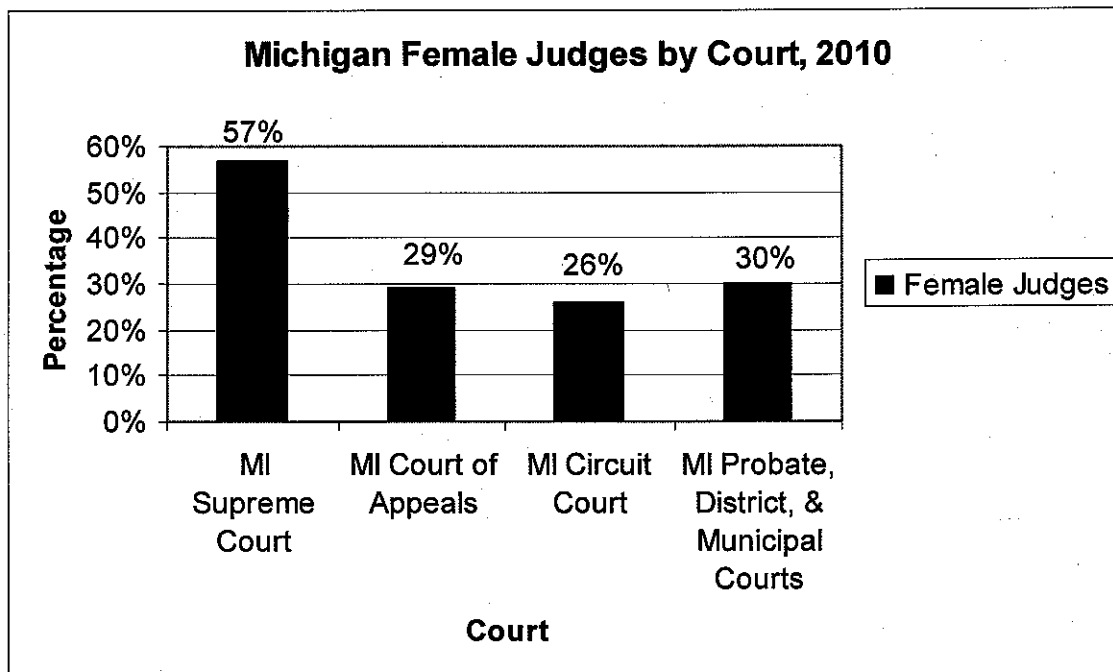
¹ U.S. Census Newsroom, *Women's History Month: March 2010*. January 5, 2010.

MI WOMEN AND ELECTED POSITIONS

In the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, men make up 75% of elected officials, with women only making up 25%. These figures are even more disproportionate at the national level where only 17% of the U.S. House of Representatives, 76 women out of 435, and Senate, 17 women out of 100, are women.



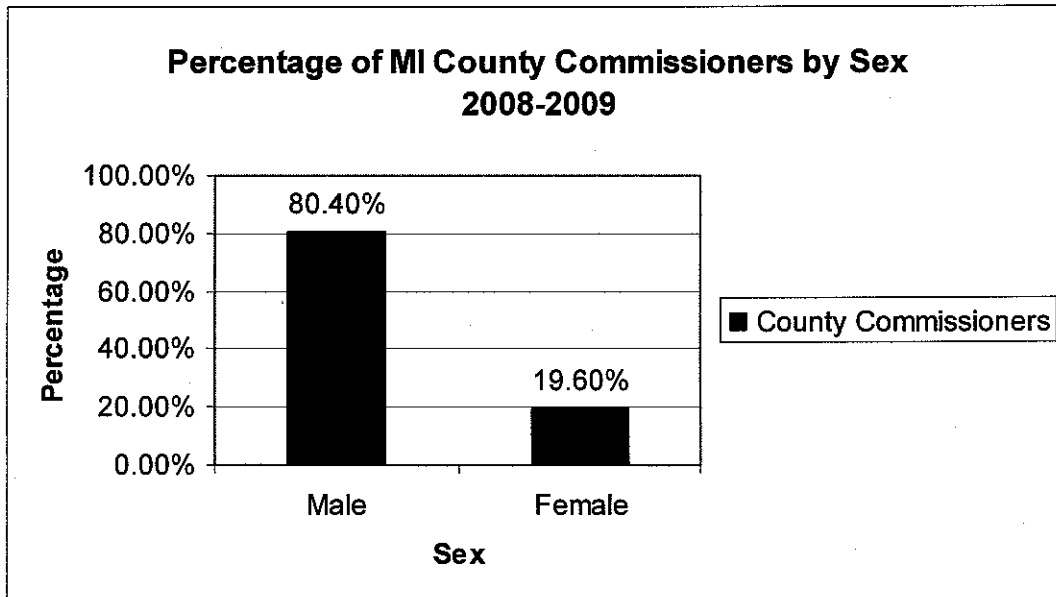
In Michigan, women are only equally represented in the judicial system in the Supreme Court, where 57% of the justices are female. In all other court systems, women only represent approximately a third of judges. Nationally, women only make up approximately 30% of judges for every court system.²



² National Association of Women Judges, 2010.

MI WOMEN AND COUNTY COMMISSION

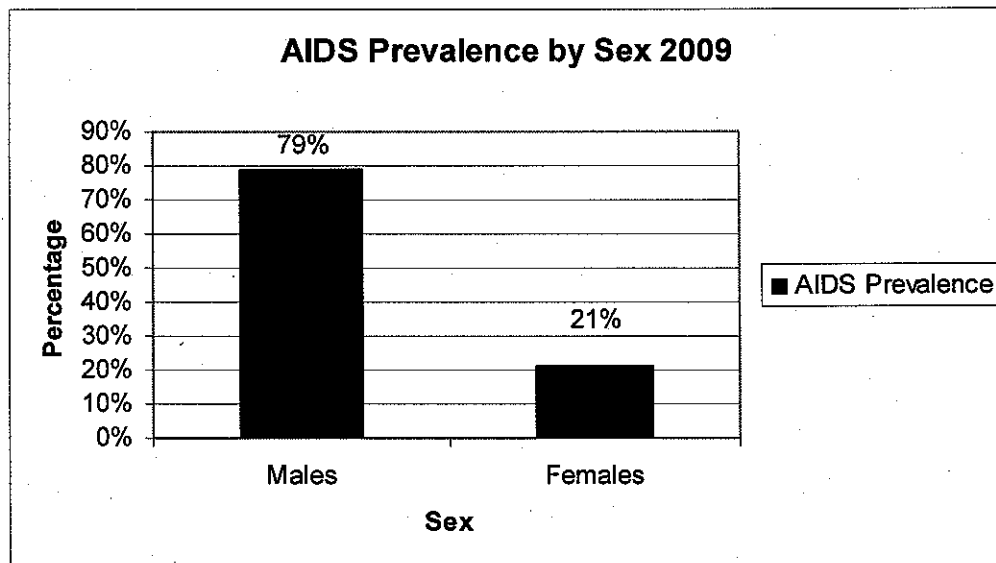
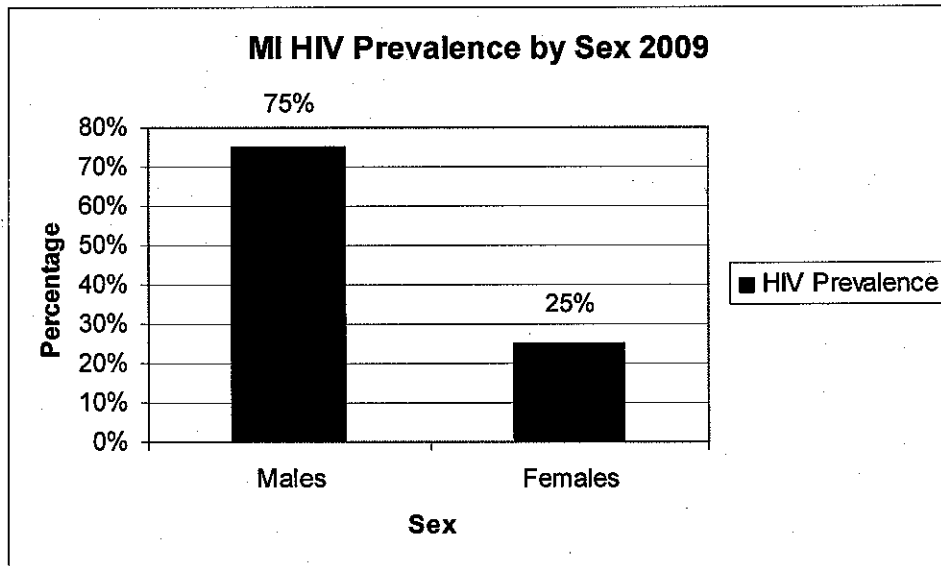
County commissioners are influential and powerful figures in local government who administer county government through hands on service and policy-making budget decisions. In Michigan, women make up less than a quarter, or 19.6%, of county commissioners in 2009.



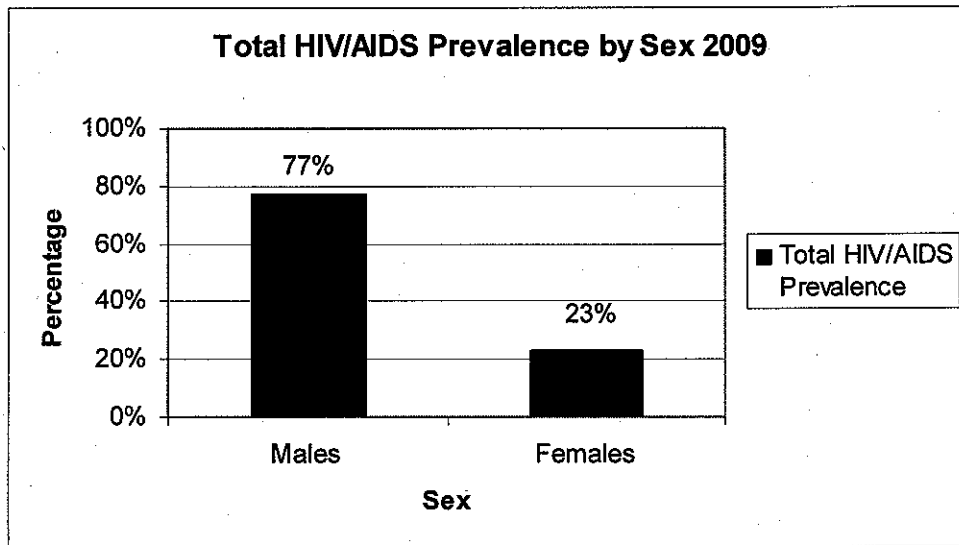
HEALTH OF MICHIGAN WOMEN

MI WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS

Reported HIV/AIDS cases are on the rise in the United States. According to the Michigan Department of Health (2009), HIV and AIDS prevalence among women is lower than amongst men. Of total reported HIV/AIDS cases, women make up 23%. Nationally these figures are similar, with 26% of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are female, and 74% are male. There are 1650 women and 4947 men with HIV prevalence, 1587 women and 5994 men with AIDS prevalence.¹

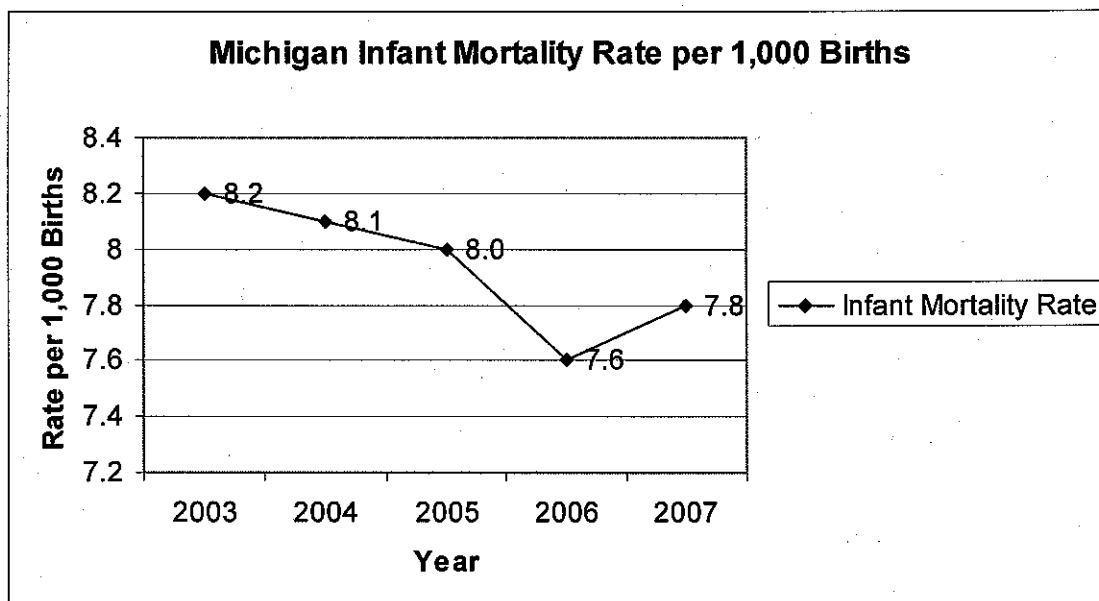


¹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, August 2009



MI INFANT MORTALITY RATES

The U.S. ranks 29th in comparison to other countries on infant mortality rates², and 33 other states have a lower infant mortality rate than Michigan.³ This graph illustrates that infant mortality rates declined between 2005 and 2006 but are back on the rise as of 2007 with an infant mortality rate of 7.8 per 1,000 births in Michigan.

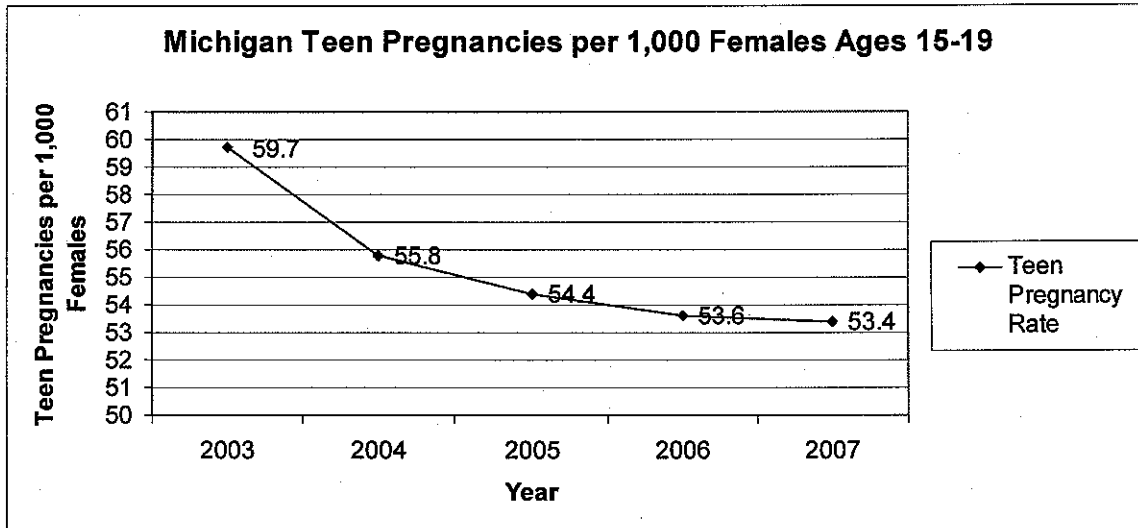


² CIA, 2008

³ Michigan League for Human Services, 2008

MI TEEN PREGNANCY RATES

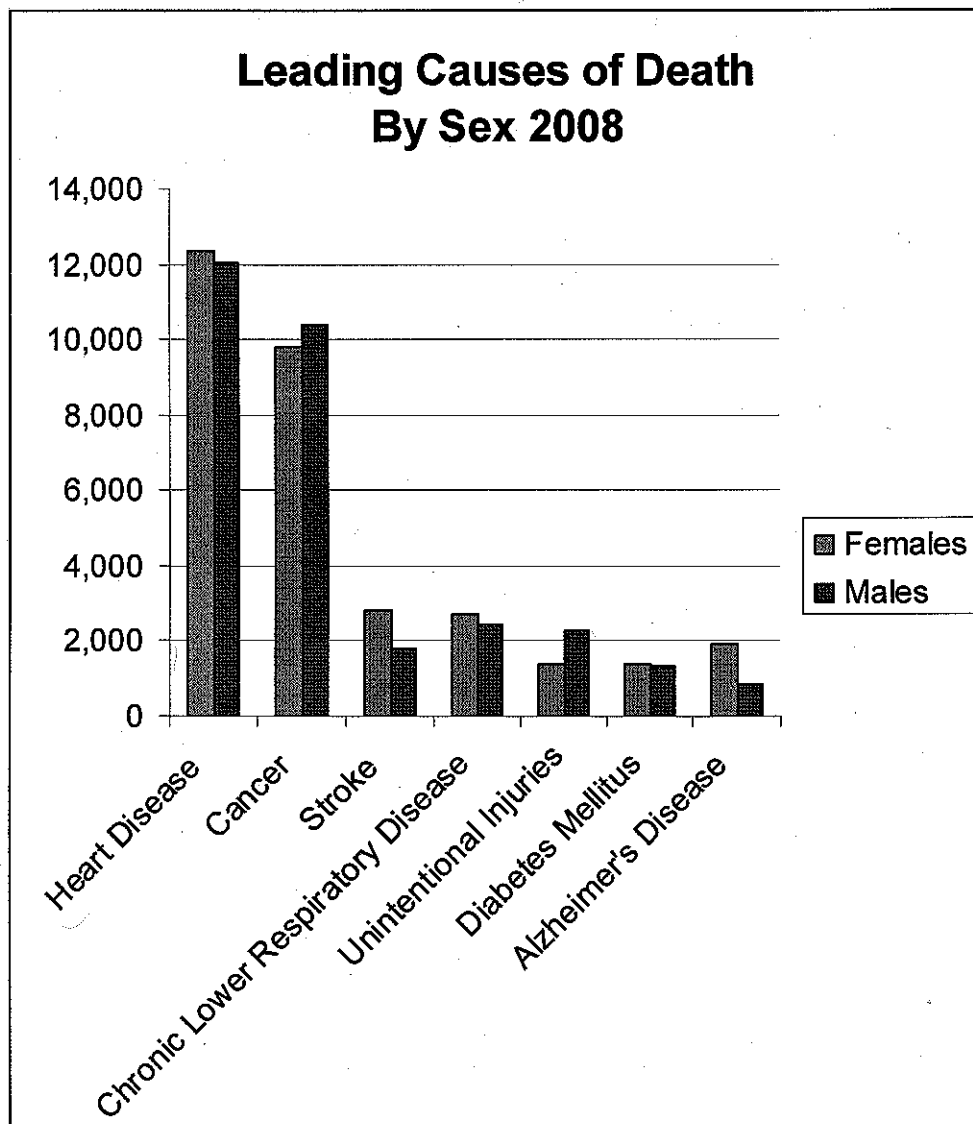
National teen pregnancy rates have been slowly declining since 1995.⁴ This graph illustrates that teen pregnancy rates in Michigan have also been on a steady decline since 2004. As of 2007, for every 1,000 females between the ages of 15 to 19, 53.4 of them gave birth.



⁴ National Center for Health Statistics, 2008

MI WOMEN AND LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

More than twice as many women die from cardiovascular diseases than all forms of cancer, including breast cancer.⁵ Heart disease is the leading cause for women both nationally and in the state of Michigan. Michigan women account for about half, or 50.7% of reported deaths from heart disease, slightly more than men in 2008. However out of the total number of deaths by stroke, women outnumber men at 60.5% in 2008.



⁵ 2008 MI Department of Community Health